

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the application are respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks herewith, which place the application into condition for allowance. The present amendment is being made to facilitate prosecution of the application.

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS AND FORMAL MATTERS

Claims 1-20 are currently pending. Claims 1, 9-11, 19 and 20, which are independent, are hereby amended. No new matter has been introduced. Support for this amendment can be found throughout the Specification as originally filed and specifically on pages 25-26. It is submitted that these claims, as originally presented, were in full compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112. Changes to claims are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §101, §102, §103, or §112. Rather, these changes are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicants are entitled.

II. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,201,958 to Boucher (hereinafter, merely "Boucher") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,023,698 to Lavey, Jr., et al. (hereinafter, merely "Lavey") and U.S. Patent No. 5,917,467 to Yoshimura (hereinafter, merely "Yoshimura") and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,167,448 to Hemphill, et al. (hereinafter, merely "Hemphill").

Claims 11-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Boucher in view of Lavey, Yoshimura, Hemphill and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,360,255 to McCormack, et al. (hereinafter, merely "McCormack").

Claim 1 recites, *inter alia*:

"A network management server connected to a network,

wherein said transmitting means transmits results of said verification performed by said verifying means to said information processing apparatus; and

wherein said verifying means, upon determining that said identification information has already been recorded by said recording means, further verifies whether sign-up processing for said information processing apparatus has previously been executed." (Emphasis added)

As understood by Applicants, Boucher relates to a telecommunications network comprising at least a radio base station and a mobile terminal suitable for sending a secret authentication code to the radio station for making itself known to said network. The invention notably provides a registration procedure for the various terminals with base radio stations to enable the network to facilitate subscriber management. For this purpose, a period of time is allocated to the secret authentication code, so that the registration of a terminal results in the fact that said secret code is supplied at a date lying in said period of time.

As understood by Applicants, Lavey relates to retrieving information from an online database. A client computer includes a client memory that stores client application instructions and a client processor. The client application instructions include a set of dynamic link libraries of code and information for each of a plurality of Internet service providers. The client processor is responsive to the client application instructions by establishing a connection with a server computer over the Internet through a selected Internet service provider and by sending tokens to the server computer. The connection to the Internet through the selected

Internet service provider is based on a set of dynamic link libraries of code and information for the selected Internet service provider.

As understood by Applicants, Yoshimura relates to a PC card capable of processing video signals.

As understood by Applicants, Hemphill relates to an event notification system for a network including a managed device that includes one or more management agents that detect one or more management events.

As understood by Applicants, McCormack relates to integrating a managed network with a network management system.

Applicants respectfully submit that Boucher, Lavey, Yoshimura, Hemphill and McCormack, taken either alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest the above-identified features of independent claim 1. Specifically, there is no teaching or suggestion of a network management server connected to a network wherein said transmitting means transmits results of said verification performed by said verifying means to said information processing apparatus and wherein said verifying means, upon determining that said identification information has already been recorded by said recording means, further verifies whether sign-up processing for said information processing apparatus has previously been executed, as recited in independent claim 1.

Further, Applicants respectfully submit that not only does the combination of Boucher, Lavey, Yoshimura, Hemphill and McCormack fail to teach or suggest the claimed features, but the combination is improper because there is no motivation, either in the references themselves, or from the knowledge of one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention

was made. Applicants respectfully submit that the combination is the result of improper hindsight using Applicants' claimed invention as a blueprint.

Therefore, Applicants submit that independent claim 1 is patentable.

For reasons similar to, or somewhat similar to, those described above with regard to independent claim 1, independent claims 9-11, 19 and 20 are also believed to be patentable.

III. DEPENDENT CLAIMS

The other claims are dependent from an independent claim discussed above, and are therefore believed patentable for at least the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

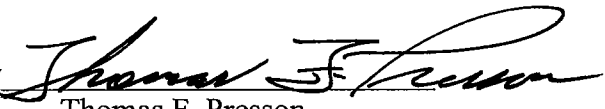
In the event the Examiner disagrees with any of statements appearing above with respect to the disclosure in the cited reference, or references, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner specifically indicate those portion, or portions of the reference, or references providing the basis for a contrary view.

Please charge any additional fees that may be needed, and credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that all of the claims in this application are patentable and Applicants respectfully request early passage to issue of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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